

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended and claim 10 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. Claims 12 and 13 are new. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found at least in original claim 10, paragraph [0044] of the specification and Figs. 6A-6C. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates this indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 6 is rewritten in independent form and incorporates the features of claims 1 and 3. Thus, claim 6, as well as claim 13 dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Tada et al. (Tada), U.S. Patent No. 5,706,984. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 and claim 10 is canceled. Thus, the rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-12.

Tada fails to disclose at least an elastic portion in which two extension portions integrally extending from a swinging portion of the hook portion are turned down, the turned-down portions are held with respect to the body, and tip ends of the extension portions are positioned to be capable of coming into contact with the hook portion, wherein the elastic portion is configured so that on one side of the turned-down portions of the extension portions, bent portions in which the extension portions are bent at least in one place are

provided, and on the other side thereof, wavy portions in which the extension portions are bent at a plurality of places are provided, as recited in independent claim 1.

Tada discloses a return spring 18 molded into a saddle shaped plate spring and inserted into a space between the cylinder body 12-2 and the nozzle holder 40 so as to ride on the cylinder body 12-2. The return spring 18 comprises a front end with a flat plate portion 18-1 extending from the saddle shape plate and away from the cylinder body, and thus does not have a turned-down portion. The flat plate portion 18-1 engages an engaging groove 20-2 formed in the rear surface of the trigger 20. Although the return spring 18 is curved in a saddle shape, it comprises only a single extension portion and does not have a turned-down portion and a wavy portion opposite the saddle shape plate spring. As a result of this substantially different structure, Tada cannot claim the benefit of an easily restored elastic portion and a rapidly executed pushback action after the finger is removed from the trigger.

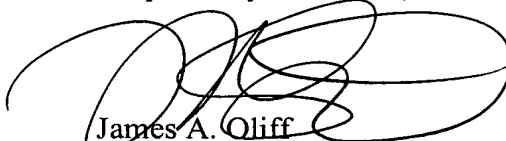
For at least the foregoing reasons, Tada fails to disclose at least an elastic portion in which two extension portions integrally extending from a swinging portion of the hook portion are turned down, the turned-down portions are held with respect to the body, and tip ends of the extension portions are positioned to be capable of coming into contact with the hook portion, wherein the elastic portion is configured so that on one side of the turned-down portions of the extension portions, bent portions in which the extension portions are bent at least in one place are provided, and on the other side thereof, wavy portions in which the extension portions are bent at a plurality of places are provided, as recited in independent claim 1. Thus claim 1 is patentable over Tada. Because claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-12 depend from independent claim 1, these claims also are patentable. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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